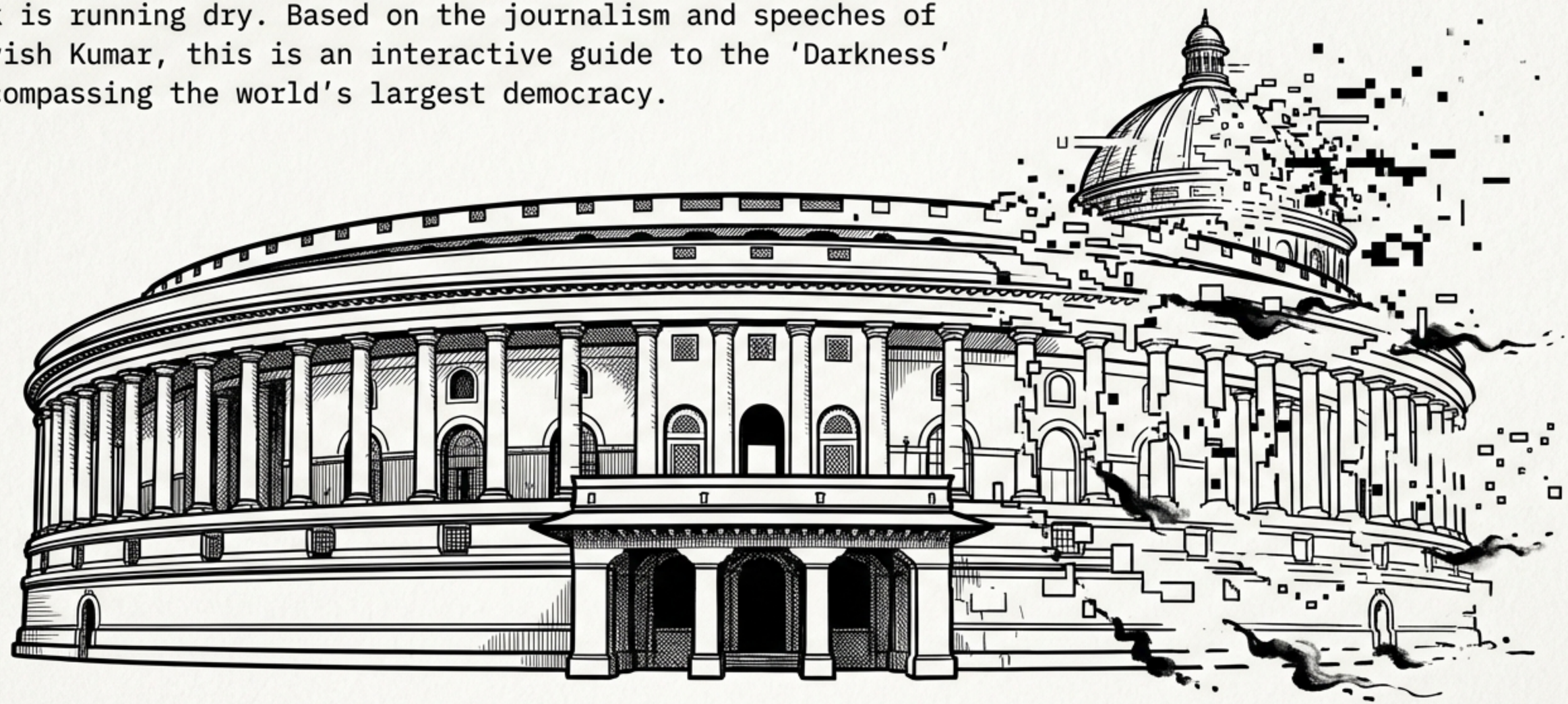
The Coloring Book of Shadows

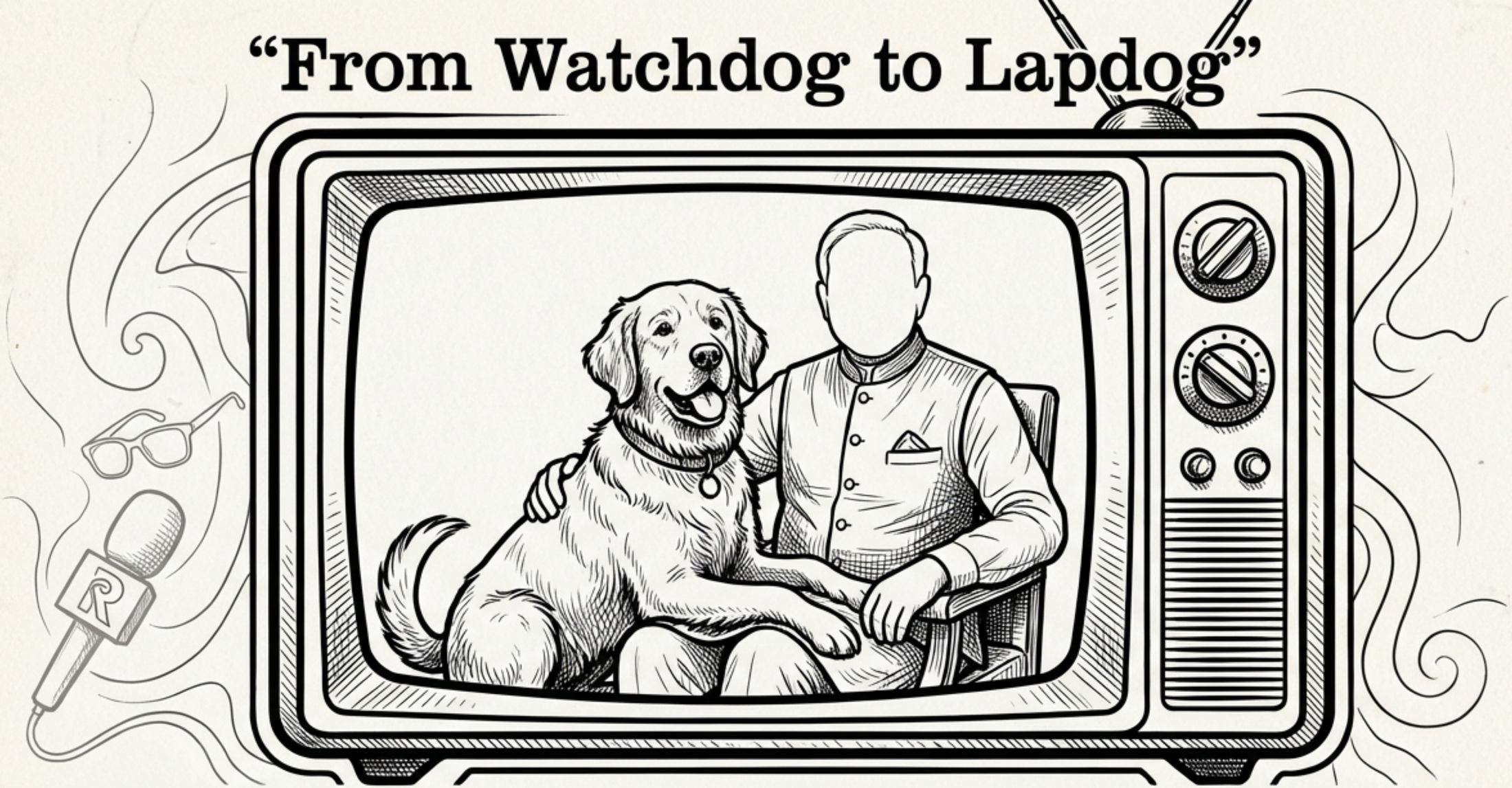
Democracy is a picture we paint together, but in India, the ink is running dry. Based on the journalism and speeches of Ravish Kumar, this is an interactive guide to the 'Darkness' encompassing the world's largest democracy.



[Instruction: Use your darkest shades. The lines here are blurring.]

NotebookLM

“From Watchdog to Lapdog”



Ravish Kumar coined the term ‘Godi Media’ (Lapdog Media) to describe a press ecosystem that has abandoned its duty. Instead of acting as a watchdog for the people, these outlets sit in the **godi** (lap) of the ruling party, eager to demonstrate nationalism and curry favor.

[Instruction: Color the dog saffron. Leave the politician blank.]

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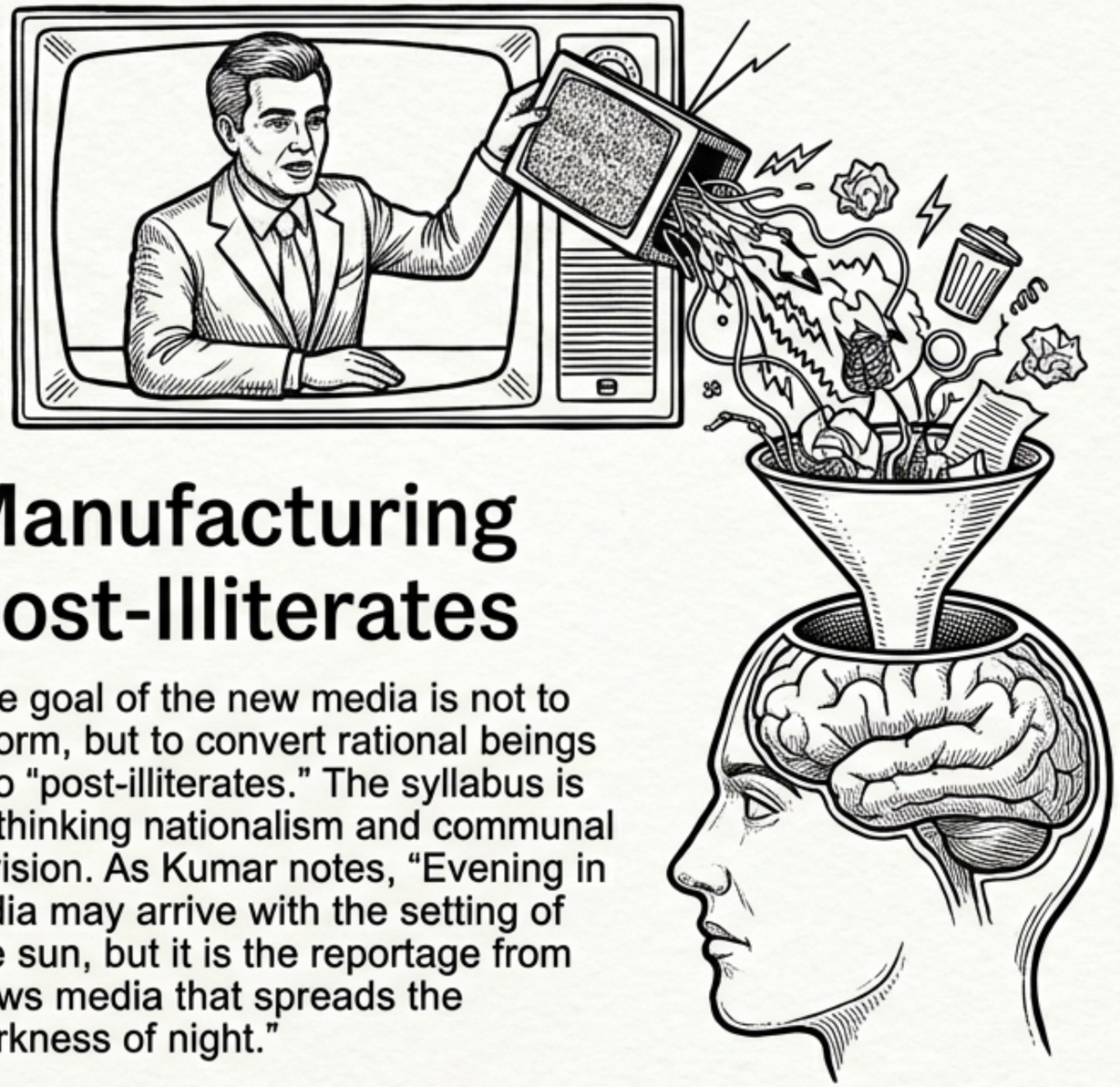

Manufacturing Post-Illiterates

The goal of the new media is not to inform, but to convert rational beings into "post-illiterates." The syllabus is unthinking nationalism and communal division. As Kumar notes, "Evening in India may arrive with the setting of the sun, but it is the reportage from news media that spreads the darkness of night."

[Instruction: Fill the mind with static. There is no room left for facts.]

NotebookLM

The Invisible Protest

Democracy lives in public demonstrations, yet the media has instituted a ‘screening process.’ Massive agitations—like the farmers’ protests or student movements—are either vilified or ignored entirely. The narrative is controlled by a simple rule: If it isn’t on TV, it didn’t happen.

[Instruction: Do not color the crowd behind the curtain. They do not exist in the bulletin.]

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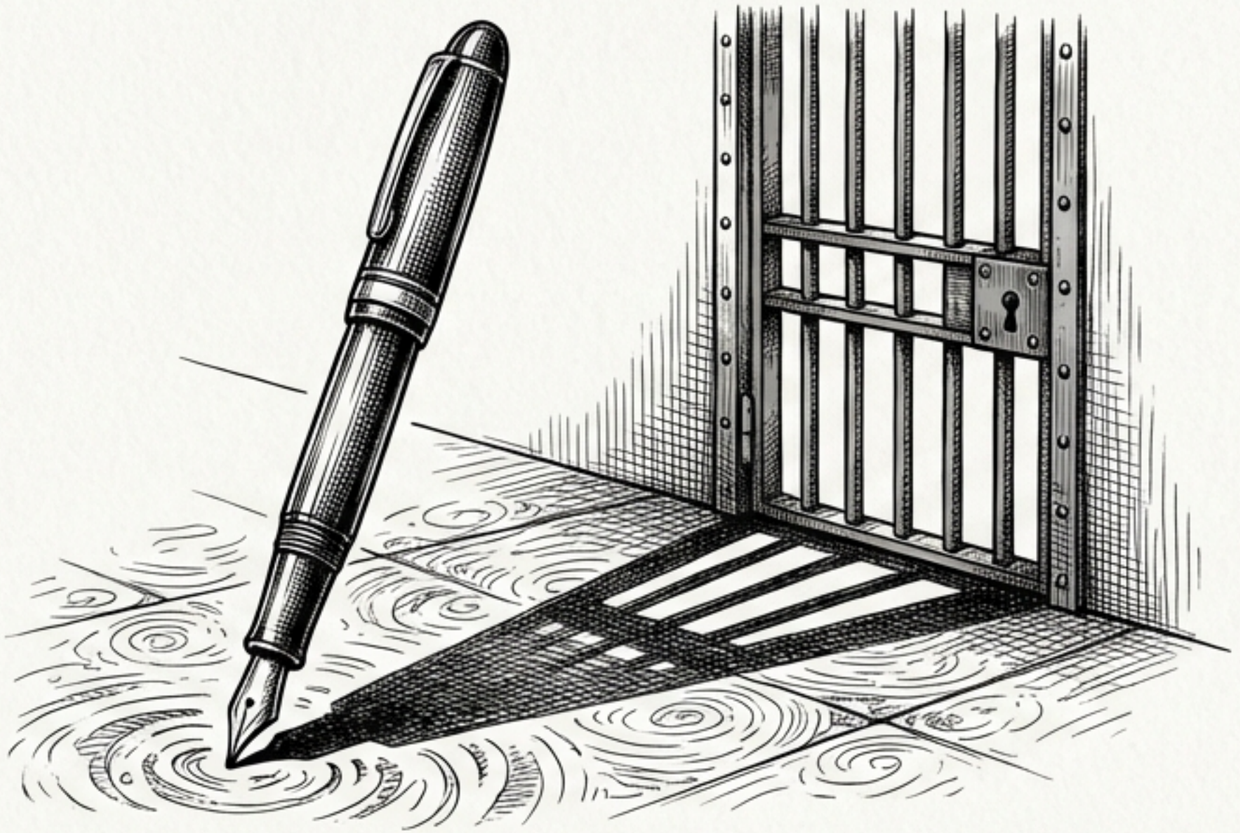
The Process is the Punishment



Laws like the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) allow the state to label dissent as “terror.” Journalist Siddique Kappan was jailed for over 8 months without trial merely for trying to cover a crime. Charges are often dropped years later, but the years lost in jail are the punishment.

[Instruction: Color the bars grey. Leave the pen untouched.]

NotebookLM

Tiempos Headline

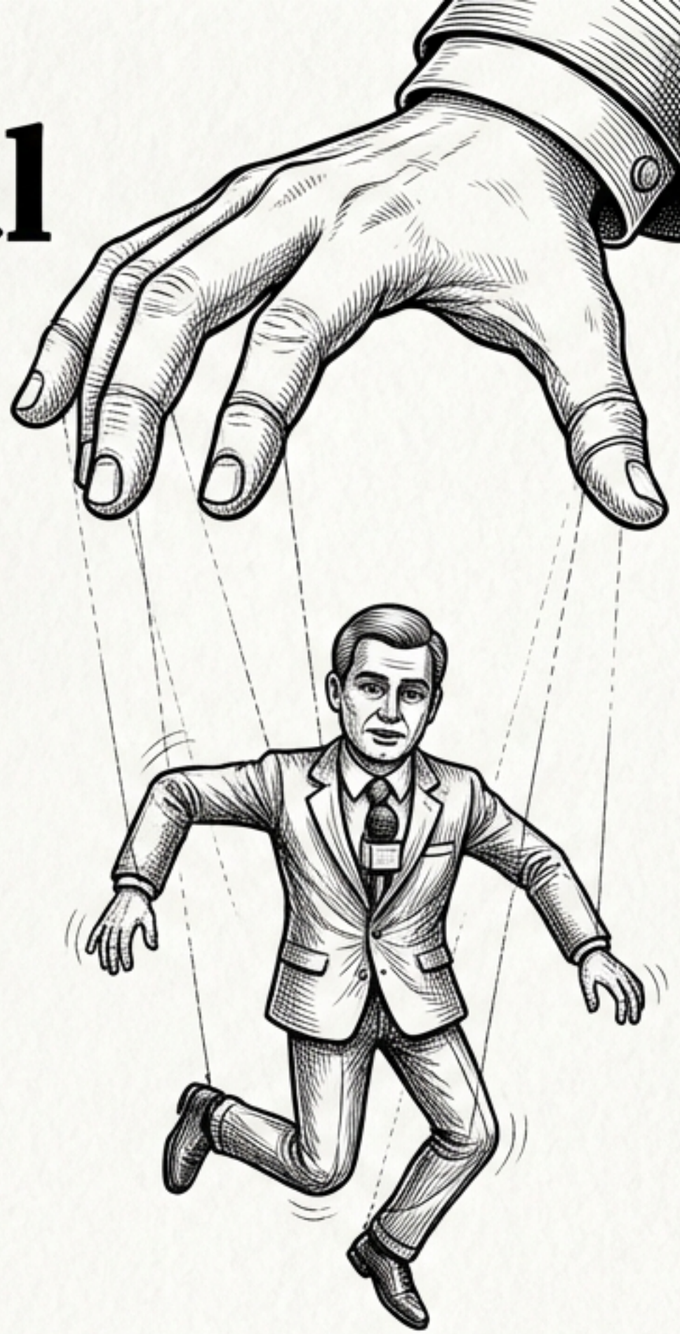
The Digital Lynch Mob

Dissent invites organized swarms of online trolls. “No other major political party appoints trolls to responsible positions,” notes the Wall Street Journal. Women journalists face threats of sexual violence and death for “stepping out of line.”

[Instruction: Color the trolls in angry red. They are paid to be angry.]

NotebookLM

The Financial Chokehold



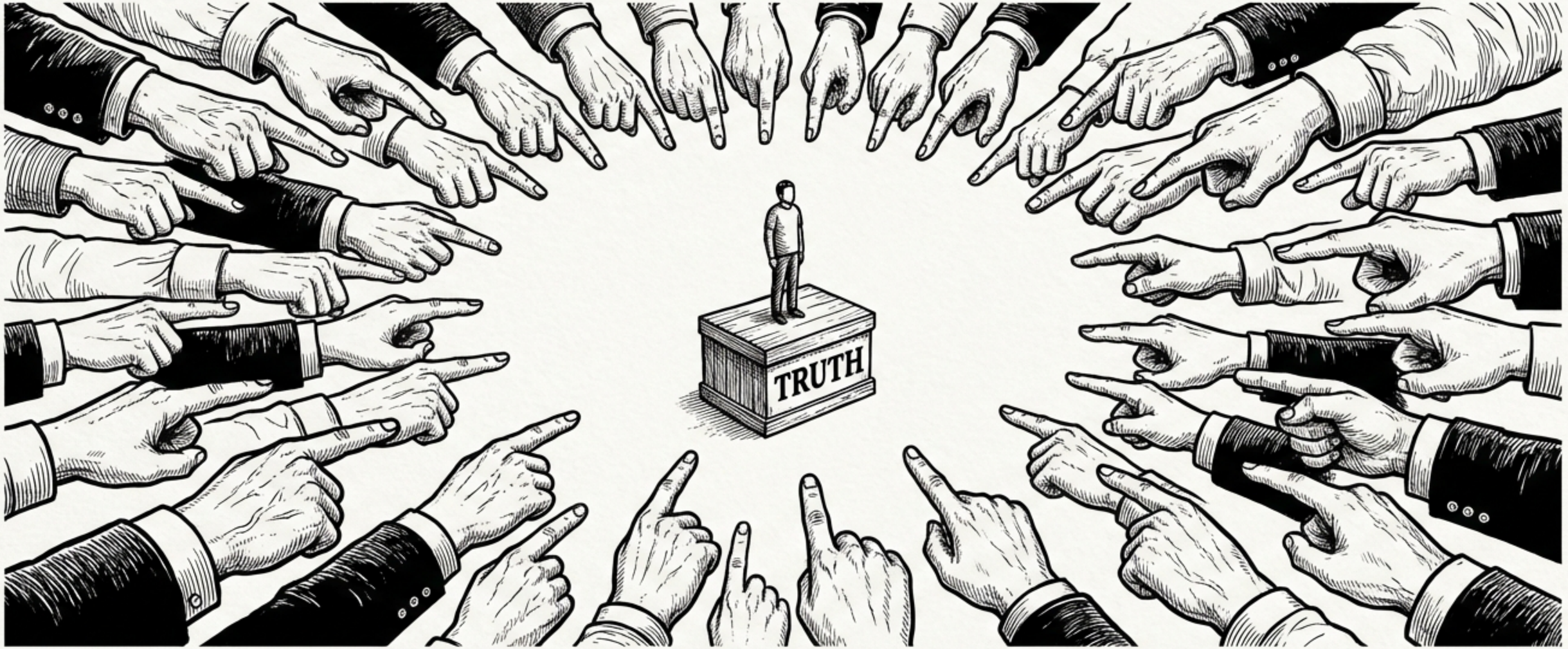
Independent journalism is dismantled through economics. Tax raids and ad revenue cuts force networks to buckle. The corporate takeover of NDTV by politically favored billionaires signaled the end of pluralism in mainstream TV, forcing independent voices into "exile."

[Instruction: The strings are invisible, but they pull tight. Color the hand gold.]

NotebookLM

Branding the Enemy

Any criticism of the government is misconstrued as an invective against the nation. Journalists are branded “Anti-National” or “Presstitutes” to isolate them from their fraternity and society. The dissenter becomes persona non grata in their own country.



[Instruction: The figure stands alone. Do not color the background.]

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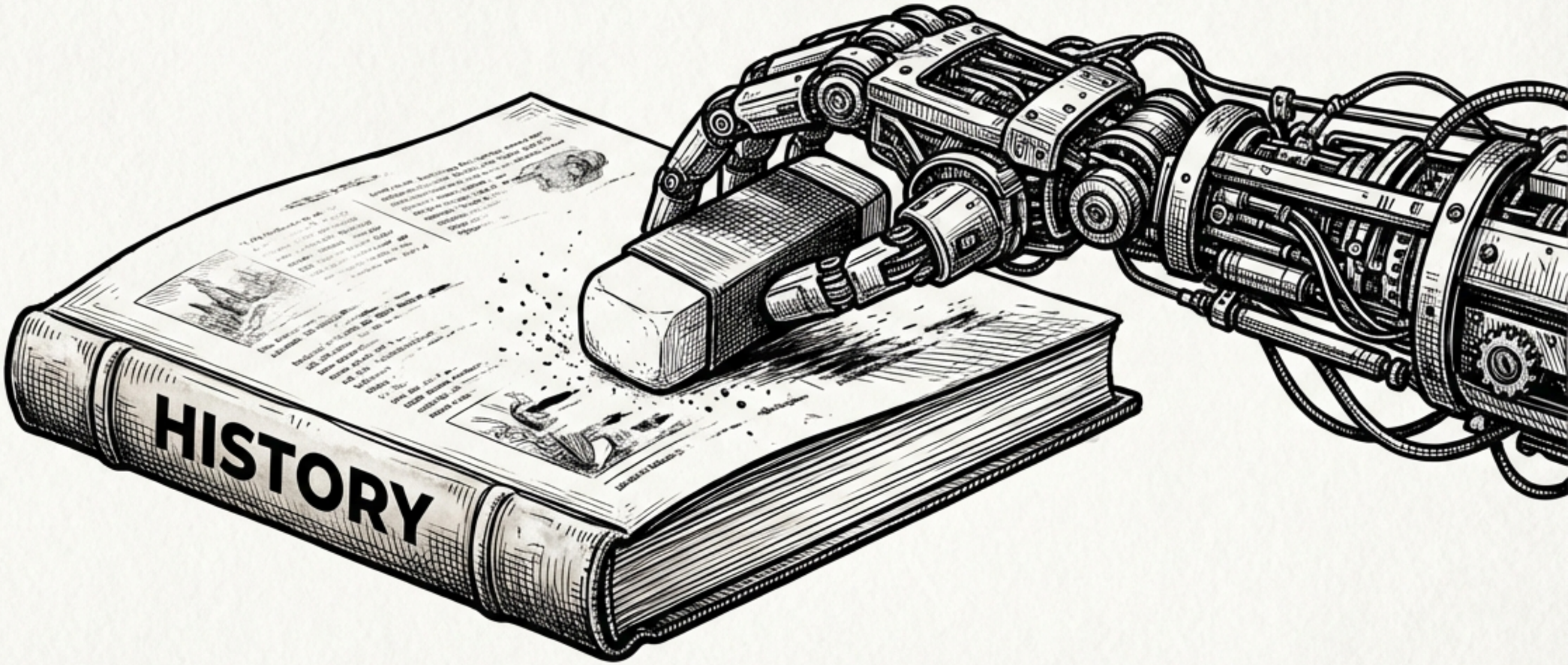
Erasure of the Past

‘After information, the next in line under attack is history.’ The control of the narrative extends backward, erasing factual history to suit a specific nationalist agenda. When the past is rewritten, the future loses its anchor.

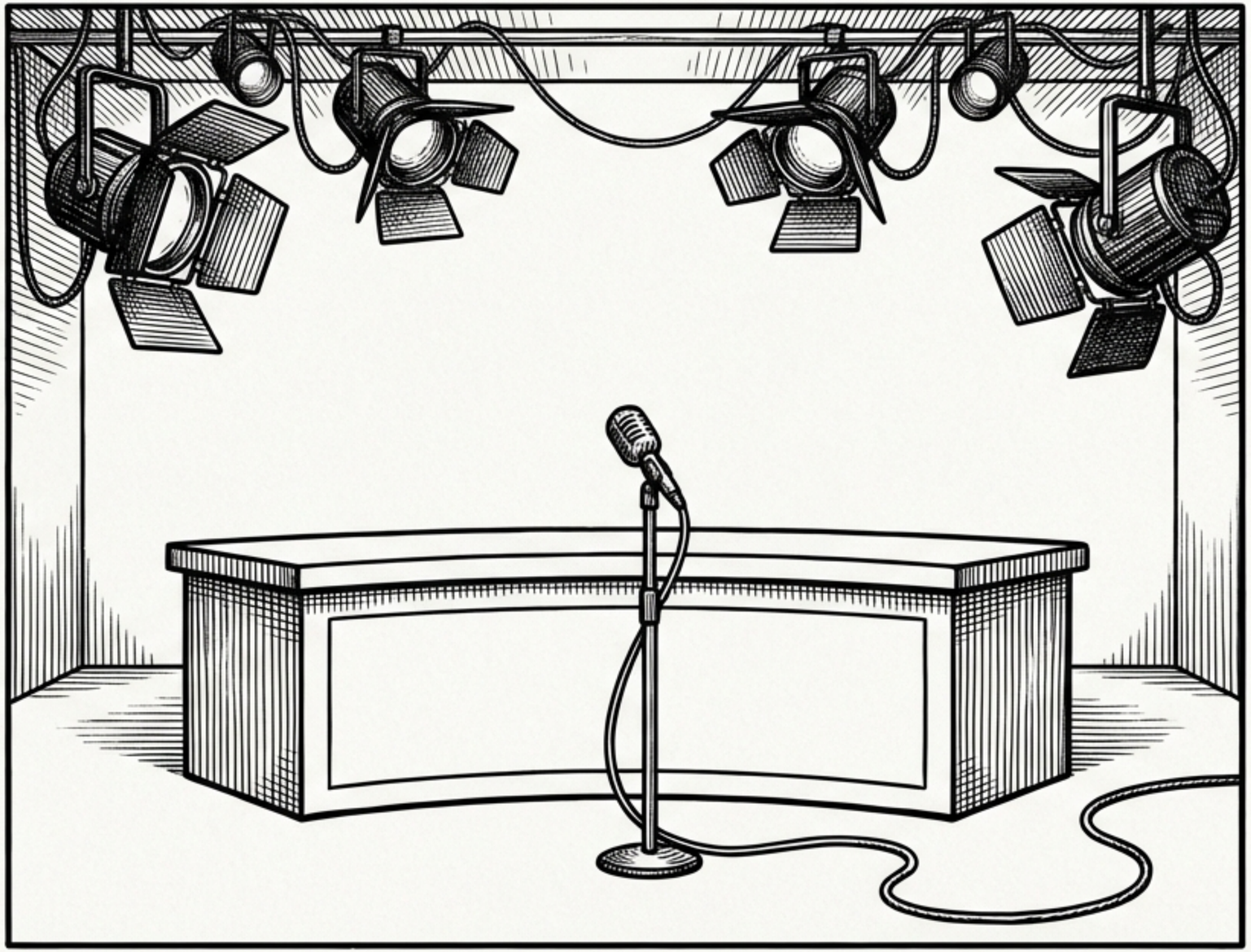


[Instruction: The pages are blank. You are not allowed to read what was there.]

NotebookLM

Exile in the Homeland

Ravish Kumar describes himself as being “in exile” within his own country. With no mainstream channel left to host a free voice, the screen goes black. The era of TV news as a pillar of democracy has crumbled.



[Instruction: Color the studio pitch black. The lights have been turned off.]

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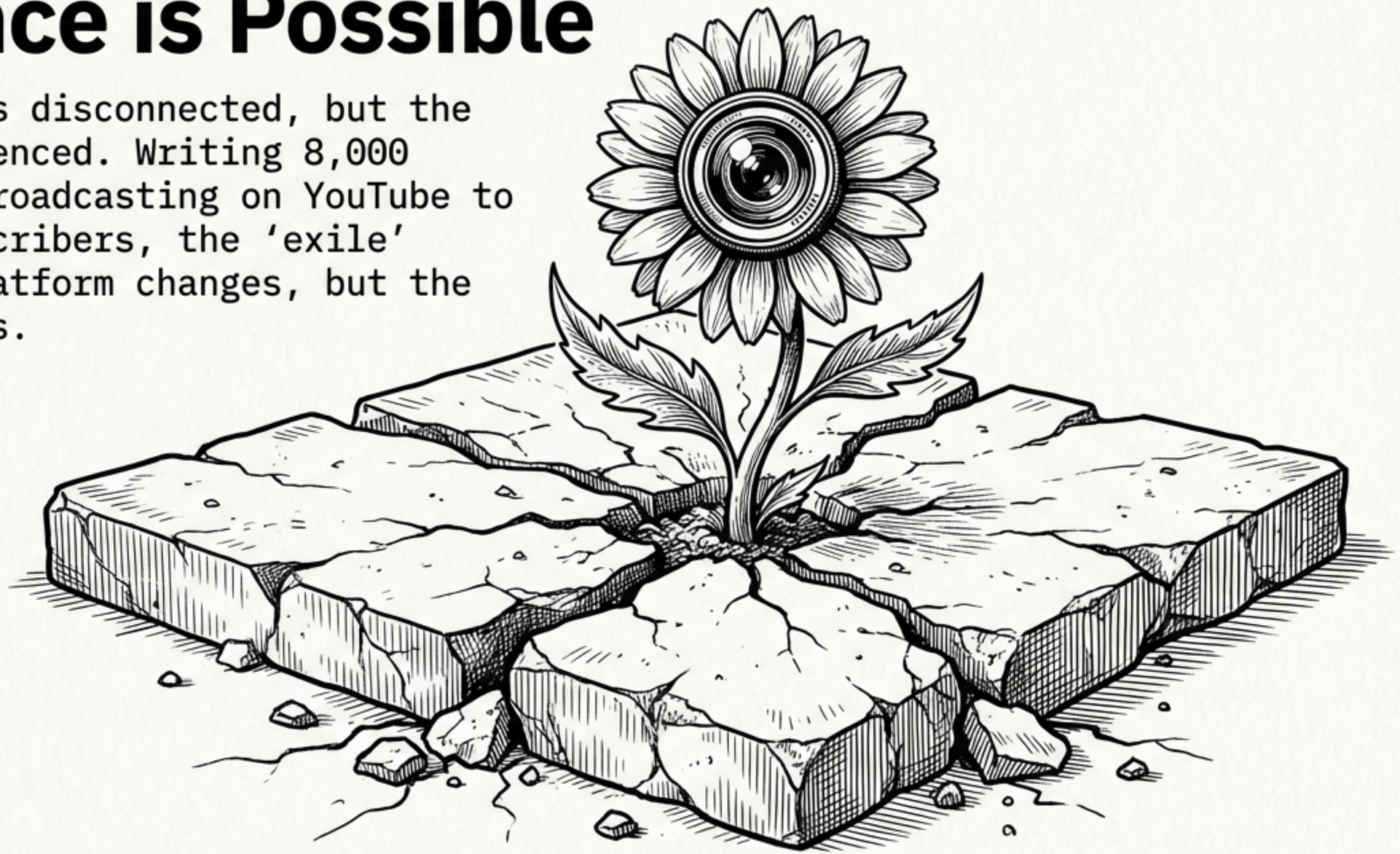
Resistance is Possible

The microphone was disconnected, but the voice was not silenced. Writing 8,000 words a day and broadcasting on YouTube to millions of subscribers, the ‘exile’ continues. The platform changes, but the journalism remains.



[Instruction: Color the flower green. It grows without permission.]

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Tiempos Headline: “You Are the New Media”

"The people will have to first become citizens." We must stop consuming the hate manufactured for us. The responsibility now lies with the public to push against the barricades of the media to reach the truth. If you want news, you may have to be the one to find it.

[Instruction: Color the screen bright white. It is the only light left.]

NotebookLM

The Essence of Citizenship

In 1947, Mahatma Gandhi warned that if newspapers were not authentic, freedom was of no use. Today, Ravish Kumar echoes that sentiment: "Not all battles are won, but they must be fought." Speaking the truth preserves the essence of who we are.

[Instruction: Color the flame. Keep it burning.]

NotebookLM